

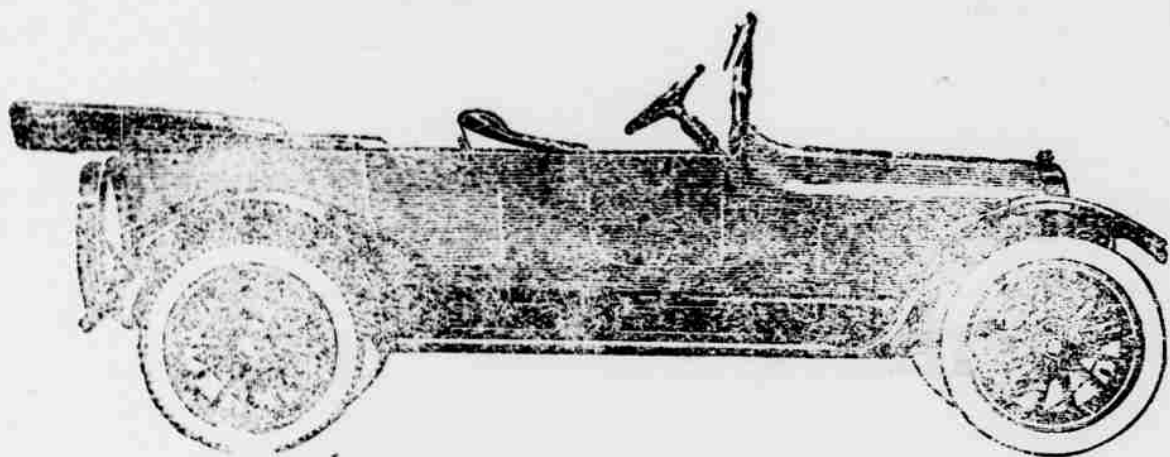
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HICKORY CLUBS

(By Mrs. C. C. Bost)

In olden times, when the writer was young, the most dreaded and most hated of school duties was the "composition." This was a composition on a given subject, and was required to be at least ten lines in length. The victim was allowed to choose her own subject and "Birds," "Flowers," etc., were popular topics. One effort I remember like this: "Trees. There are many kinds of trees. I will mention a few: the oak, the maple, the poplar, the hickory, the apple, the peach, gum, the spruce, the cherry, the walnut, the quince, and a great many others. Trees are very useful." etc. By mentioning them any uses of trees and by writing the words very far apart, ten lines could finally be achieved.

Copying this style of composition, this article might well begin, "There are a great many clubs in Hickory which will be mentioned in order of age, as far as possible. First on the list is the Traveler's Club. The Traveler's club which is the oldest woman's club of continuous existence in the state, we believe. It was organized Nov. 21, 1890 with four members which were soon added to, until the limit, 15 members, was soon reached. The prime mover and organizer was Mrs. Frank Witting, and the three others were Mrs. Kinneer, Mrs. Burtless and Mrs. Holmes. The first officers were Mrs. C. A. Ciley, president; Mrs. Kinneer,

vice president; Mrs. Burtless, secretary. The secretary's book, or minutes book, was a model of neatness. Every item connected with the club was faithfully recorded. The first "travel" was from Hickory to Queens-town, Ireland, this being the program for the first year. The carefully prepared and really brilliant papers were so much enjoyed it was decided to have an open meeting when the husbands would be invited to be present. In February 1891 the first open meeting was held and a most interesting program was given. A paper on "Carlyle" by Mrs. Kinneer was specially fine. The club has held many open meetings and receptions during its twenty-six years of existence. The most recent was a Shakespeare evening at the home of Mrs. G. N. Hutton in April, 1916. The club has had a membership of 25 and has a number of members who have traveled extensively abroad—Mrs. E. B. Cline, Miss M. E. Geitner, Miss M. E. Geitner and Miss Amelia McComb. The present membership is as follows: Mrs. H. D. Abernethy, Mrs. F. A. Henderson, Mrs. W. L. Abernethy, Mrs. J. L. Ciley, Mrs. E. B. Cline, Mrs. O. M. Royster, Mrs. W. R. Gwaltney, Mrs. G. N. Hutton, Mrs. Bert Hutton, Mrs. N. W. Clarke, Mrs. Walker Lyerly, Mrs. J. L. Murphy, Miss Amelia McComb, Mrs. E. Chadwick, Mrs. J. A. Martin, Miss Jos'e Person, Mrs. J. H. Patrick, Mrs. O. M. Royster, Mrs. J. L. Riddle, Mrs. K. C. Menzies, Mrs. E. B. Menzies, Mrs. W. B. Menzies, Miss Essie Seagle, Mrs. J. H. Shuford, Mrs. C. M. Shuford, Miss Ada Schenck.

It has "traveled" extensively in England, Scotland, Germany, Switzerland, Ireland, Russia, Japan, Egypt, North Carolina, "and many other places." Its meetings are held every Thursday from October to April.

Next in order of age is the Hickory Book Club.

This is the pioneer book club of Hickory, organized in 1898 by Mrs. H. D. Abernethy with its first officers Mrs. H. D. Abernethy, president; Miss Mary Geitner, vice-president; Mrs. O. M. Royster, secretary-treasurer. The other charter members were Mrs. W. L. Abernethy, Mrs. E. H. Ciley, Mrs. F. A. Chindard, Mrs. E. Chadwick, Mrs. G. H. Geitner, Mrs. F. J. Green, Mrs. P. C. Hall, Mrs. J. A. Martin, Mrs. J. A. Ramsay, Miss Ada Schenck and Miss Emily Wheeler. Some of the first books of the series 1898-1899 were the following: "Gosta Berling," "The Reminiscences of a Very Old Man," "Hope, the Hermit," "Tekla," "Jesse's Bride," "Domitia," "Cyrano de Bergerac," "Wild Ellen," "A Puritan Hoarding," "Yesterday's with Authors," "Black Diamond," "Rembrandt," "Double Thread," "David Harum."

During the first five or six years of this club's organization it was noted for its handsome and elaborate entertainments some of these being given at the home of Mrs. H. C. Menzies, Mrs. H. D. Abernethy and Miss Emily Wheeler.

Its present enrollment is as follows: Miss Mary Geitner, Mrs. G. H. Geitner, Mrs. J. G. Garth, Mrs. J. A. Martin, Mrs. K. C. Menzies, Mrs. J. A. Ramsay, Mrs. O. M. Royster, Mrs. A. A. Shuford, Jr., Mrs. E. L. Shuford, Mrs. H. D. Abernethy, Mrs. E. Chadwick, Miss Emily Wheeler, Miss Ada Schenck, Mrs. H. C. Menzies.

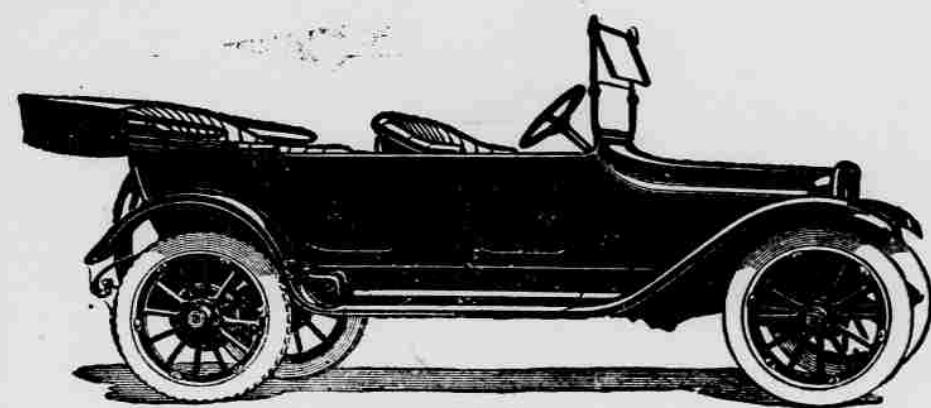
After this came the Round Dozen Book Club organized September 1905 by Mrs. T. M. Hufham and Mrs. C. C. Bost. The first officers were Mrs. C. C. Bost, president; Mrs. J. L. Murphy, vice president; Mrs. T. M. Hufham, secretary. The other charter members were Mesdames J. W. Blackwelder, J. W. Elliott, C. H. Geitner, W. G. Fox, H. M. Doll, W. A. Rudisill, Puckett, G. N. Hutton, and Miss Lizzie McComb. The original members pride themselves on the fact that John Charles McNeil, then practically unknown to Hickory people, attended the first reception, January 2, 1906, at the home of Mrs. C. C. Bost and gave delightful readings from his own poems.

The present membership of this club is: Mesdames W. L. and L. F. Abernethy, J. F. Allen, J. W. Blackwelder, C. C. Bost, W. B. Council, J. W. Elliott, C. H. Geitner, F. B. Ingold, J. L. Murphy, W. B. Ramsay, J. B. Gibbs, Hugh D'Anna and Miss Lizzie McComb.

While it is not purposed to write on any but literary clubs. The Dames of Pleasure, existing eight or ten years ago, gave so much pleasure during its short but brilliant career, it is well worthy of mention. This club was made up of "dames" only, and I am not sure that there was not an age limit. At any rate the club was composed of charming young married women who entertained delightfully. About this time guessing contests were at the height of their popularity and many clever and original ones were given at the meetings. A partial list of the members is as follows: Mesdames Roy N. E. Aull, E. B. Jones, W. A. Hall, C. M. Sherrill, J. H. Hatcher, W. A. White, W. H. Little, W. S. Martin, R. L. Fritz, C. M. Shuford, H. C. Menzies, E. B. Menzies, and C. H. Geitner.

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What distinguishes it and gives it character is the way it is made, and the degree to which the possibilities of a car at \$785 have been developed, in point of commodiousness for the passengers, service, sturdiness, and general appearance. It is sold with everything that could be asked for in the way of equipment, including electric lighting and starting, one-man top, and windshield. There has been no skimping at one place in order to afford a flashy or eye-catching feature at another, and generous measure is to be seen in even the small details.


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The Thursday Study Club was organized September 1908 by Mesdames T. M. Hufham, J. W. Elliott and C. C. Bost. The first officers were Mrs. C. C. Bost, president; Mrs. W. L. Spielman, vice-president; Mrs. R. A. Grmes, secretary. The other charter members were Mesdames J. W. Elliott, T. M. Hufham, G. E. Bisanar, J. D. Harte, W. H. Little, C. Henderson, W. J. Stirewalt, J. A. Moretz, D. L. Fry and Misses Maye Blackwelder, Mamie Sue Johnson and Rhea Sourbeer. This club meets on alternate Thursdays and studied Norway and Sweden, Holland, Ireland, India, Famous women, Switzerland and Egypt. During its eight years' existence, it has given a number of elaborate receptions, notably, one for the first bride member, Miss Rhea Sourbeer who returned to the club as Mrs. Roy Abernethy, and one for Mrs. S. C. Cornwell, June, 1916, on the occasion of her moving to Tenn. Both of these receptions were given at Mrs. J. W. Elliott's hospitable home. This club enjoys the pleasing distinction of being the only federated club in the town. It has also, never changed its president.

The Wednesday Afternoon Book Club had for its members Mesdames F. P. Abernethy, B. B. Blackwelder, W. A. Hall, J. H. Hatcher, J. B. Beardi, W. J. Shuford, W. B. Menzies, E. B. Menzies, E. B. Jones, N. W. Clarke, E. B. Cline and Miss Mary Munroe. Like the other book clubs, its meetings are held every two weeks, and by common consent, Wednesday is book-club day.

The Hecades Book Club as the name suggests, was composed of seven young ladies, who did not remain young ladies for long. The charter members were Miss Mary Shuford, Miss Hazel Elliott, Miss Margaret Bost, Miss Katherine Gwaltney, Miss Sallie Martin, Miss Annie Laurie Abernethy and Miss Grace Abernethy.

The Do As You Please Club is made up of seventeen young ladies. The members are Misses Mary Allen, Emma Bonner, Constance Bost, Katie Elliott, Frances Geitner, Louise Jones, Rose and Frank Martin, Adelyn McComb, Millie Kate McComb, Gladys Reid, Helen Springs, Amy and Virginia Sellars, Margaret Taylor, Greta Wozen and Mrs. Ronda Buchanan. This club we believe is the only one to contribute as a club to the Associated Charities of the town.

The Five W's Club has for its members Misses Grace Patrick, Lillian

(Continued on page six)

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